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the essays is 'The Reasonableness of the Demand for International Peace.' Prizes are to be distributed according to the following plan: The States are to be divided into seven groups, and in *each* group there are offered three prizes of thirty-five, twenty, and ten dollars, respectively, for the first, second, and third best essays. An additional prize of fifty dollars is to be awarded the writer whose essay is given *first* place in the contest. It is planned also to publish the essays given first place in each of the groups, together with the names of all winning contestants.

"The States are grouped as follows:

"1. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York.

"2. Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

"3. Illinois, Wisconsin.

"4. Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee.

"5. Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas.

"6. Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado.

"7. Oregon, Washington, California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico.

"Not more than one essay is to be submitted by each school. This essay is to be read before the high school, if possible, on Washington's birthday, and should be in the hands of the secretary March 15, 1913. Winners of the prizes will be announced by June 1, 1913.

"The essays should contain about 3,000 words, and must not exceed 4,500 words. They should be written legibly—typewritten if possible—on one side only of paper, 8 x 10 inches, with a margin of at least one inch. They should be mailed as a flat package. All communications should be addressed to Prof. J. A. James, University Hall, Evanston, Illinois."

The committee of direction consists of Abram W. Harris, chairman, president of Northwestern University; John R. Lindgren, Evanston, Ill.; Mrs. John R. Lindgren, Evanston; Dr. Henry C. Mabie, Rochester, N. Y.; W. A. Peterson, Chicago; Prof. F. C. Eiselen, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston; Prof. J. A. James, secretary, Evanston.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the ADVOCATE OF PEACE:

In considering the repeal of the clause in the Panama Canal act exempting our coastwise trade from tolls, the entire exemption of all vessels of commerce and war of all nations has been almost neglected. This is the only policy which will enable us to discharge our treaty obligations with perfect justice to both Great Britain and Colombia, and is, moreover, consistent with our economic and national interests.

The faith of nations has been sometimes lightly held, but the United States is the champion of international fairness and the leading advocate of peace. We cannot and will not, therefore, violate our sacred honor by discriminating in favor of our own citizens or commerce, which the Hay-Pauncefote treaty forbids. And we have agreed not to collect tolls from the war vessels of Co-

lombia, which will be discrimination unless we exempt war vessels of all other nations as well.

Plainly there is no alternative to free passage for all vessels of commerce and war. This will, moreover, tend to encourage our foreign shipping equally with our coastwise trade, which needs less assistance. The Panama Canal act empowers the Interstate Commerce Commission to prevent the use of the canal by monopolies, and so tolls need not be charged for this purpose. Free passage will open all our ports to the world and reduce ocean freights, lowering prices; as an advertisement of our commerce it will be worth more than the cost of building and maintaining the canal, which is estimated to be less than \$20,000,000 a year—trivial compared with our annual appropriations of a billion dollars, or with our export trade to Great Britain (\$536,591,730 for the year 1910-1911).

More than half of our national expenses are occasioned by war. And if we are to break our treaty contracts with the world, we must be prepared for war. The fortification of the Panama Canal and an increased navy will be necessary, though our treaties must again be broken. But if we keep our pledges there will be no need of this, for our generous action will make all nations our friends, so that we will not only save the whole expense of protecting the canal, very likely to equal its original cost, but will also greatly increase our business. A similar privilege might even be granted to us in the free use of the Suez Canal.

It will require courage for us to do this; but we have never lacked courage. We must assume that other nations will accept our standard of honor and respect our rights as we recognize theirs. And in this step we shall lead the way to the world peace for which the centuries have waited, by proving that sound integrity is the best foundation for good will and business success.

G. BOUTON.

PRINCETON, N. J., February 15.

The Hero of Armageddon.

By Lucia Ames Mead.

Colonel Roosevelt is reported to have said recently in Boston, "If you teach a soldier that he can arbitrate a slap in the face, he won't fight, and, likewise, if you teach a nation that it can arbitrate a matter of vital interest to itself, it won't fight." This is so characteristic of the speaker's well-known views that no one questions his having said it and his having deplored the truth of it, for he likes fighting, and by no means wants it abolished. "I know my countrymen; they will go to war at the drop of the hat if their national honor is jeopardized in any way," he continued. Let us analyze this cheap and dangerous talk, which, in the ears not only of the groundlings, but, alas! of many intelligent men, sounds so valiant and patriotic.

Surely Colonel Roosevelt does not wish us to class him with the Tillmans, and, being a man who won the admiration of the world by his self-restraint when attacked by an assassin, is it likely that if slapped in the face by some rowdy he would so demean himself as to be drawn into a vulgar street brawl were the case his own? The ex-President of the United States and the Nobel prize winner can scarcely be imagined as venting